Statement II

Details of the Pending proposals of Tamil Nadu Government

SI. No.	Details of the proposals	
1	Conservation and Management of Wetlands with an estimated cost of Rs. 220.40 lakhs	
2	River Conservation proposals	
	(i) Rameshwaram	Rs. 803.00 lakhs (Estimated Cost)
	(ii) Tiruchendur	Rs. 874.00 lakhs (Estimated Cost)
	(iii) Ambur	Rs. 2500.00 lakhs (Estimated Cost)
	(iv) Ranipet & Wallajah	Rs. 2500.00 lakhs (Estimated Cost)
	(v) Jai Balaji Nagar, Chennai	Rs.259.61 lakhs (Estimated Cost)
3	A proposal under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme involving a Central assistance of Rs. 400.00 lakhs	
4	5 FDA proposals under the National Afforestation Programme	

Loss of forest wealth by Forest Mafia

†1085. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT **AND** FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of losses caused to the forest wealth every year by the forest mafia; and

(b) the steps Government propose to check the cutting of trees by illegal forest mafia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are either no or nil reports available with this Ministry regarding the extent of losses to the forest wealth every year by forest mafia except that from Andhra Pradesh. The figures reported by Andhra Pradesh are as follows:

Year	lllegal Felling	
	Vol. Cum	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	42.8	17.120
2001-02	21.9	9.855
2002-03	55.1	27.50

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The steps taken by Government to check and prevent illegal cutting of trees, including that by forest mafia, are given below:

(i) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to States/UTs, under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes, for the protection and conservation of forest and wildlife.

(ii) A network of protected areas i.e. Wildlife National Parks and Sanctuaries has been created.

(iii) Local communities have been involved in protection, conservation and management of forests through the process of Joint Forest Management.

(iv) Harvesting of trees from Government Forest Land is done only through the agency of State Forest Departments/Forest Development Corporations.

(v) Many State Governments have made amendments in their State Forest Acts and/or State amendments in the-Indian Forest Act, 1927 to make the provisions of penalties against illicit felling more stringent like increase in amount of fine, increase in period of imprisonment and confiscation of tools, implements, vehicles etc., used in the commission of offence etc.

It is also mentioed that protection and conservation of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments.

Hydro-electric power project in Kerala

1086. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the sanction of Hydro-electric power project at 'Pathrakadavu' in Kerala is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the environmental implications of the project;

(c) whether it is a fact that rare species of fishes are likely to face the threat of extinction if the project is implemented;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the proposed project will destroy the Silent Valley National Park; and